

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were examined for purposes of restriction in the present application. Claims ~~20~~ and ~~22~~ have been canceled, being replaced with new claims 34 and 35. The pending claims are now 1-19, 21 and 23-35.

Amendment of claims

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that it is directed to a method for making a polymeric material. Applicants' Representative has noticed a discrepancy between the preamble of the claim, reciting a method for making an article, and the final result of the process steps, reciting that a material results.

Claims 20 and 22 are canceled, being replaced by new claims 34 and 35. The new claims are also directed to a material.

Election of restriction group

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-21, drawn to a method of prepring an electrically conductive polymeric article, classified in class 427, subclass 558;

Group II, claim 22, drawn to a method for preparing an electrically conductive polymer classified in class 427, subclass 558; and

Group III, claims 23, 25, 26, 28-33, drawn to an electrically conductive polymeric article, classified in class 428, subclass 5.

Group IV, claims 24, 27, drawn to an electrically conductive polymeric article, classified in class 428, subclass 411.1.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-21 as presented by the Examiner, now claims 1-19, 21 and 34-35.

Applicants submit that the inclusion of claims 34 and 35 within restriction Group I is appropriate, as (1) these claims, like claims 1-19 and 21, are directed to a method for making a conductive polymeric material, and (2) the division between claims 1-21 and 22 is clearly arbitrary, as Applicants' Representative sees no difference between a claim to a "polymeric material" and a claim to a "polymer". Applicants' Representative notes that the class and subclass of claims 1-21 is the same as those for claim 22. Thus, there is no additional burden placed upon the Examiner to search claims such as 22, directed to a polymer, in addition to search of claims 1-21, directed to a polymeric material.

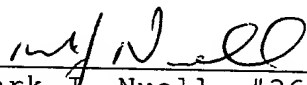
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preparing an electrically conductive polymeric [article] material, comprising

i) contacting a polymeric material capable of exhibiting electrical conductivity upon oxidative doping with a viologen salt to form a pre-doped composition; and

ii) irradiating the pre-doped composition with electromagnetic radiation, thus producing an electrically conductive polymeric material.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim [20] 34 wherein vinyl benzyl halide is used.

23. (Amended) An electrically conductive polymeric article prepared according to the method of claim 1 or [22] 35.

Claims 34 and 35 are added.